



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary-Designee Serena McIlwain**

House Bill 30

Environment-On-Site Wastewater Services-Board, Fees, and Penalties

Position: Support
Committee: Environment and Transportation Committee
Date: February 1, 2023
From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) **SUPPORTS** HB 30. The bill makes technical changes needed to implement the State Board of On-Site Wastewater Professionals (Board).

The Board was created by HB 318 of 2022 and will oversee licensing, certification, and training requirements for a variety of on-site wastewater professionals, including installers, property transfer inspectors, designers, pumpers, and operation and maintenance providers. MDE is in the process of setting up the Board to meet the June 1, 2023 deadline for operations. However, as the Department proceeded with its preparations, several technical errors were discovered with HB 318 of 2022. The Department worked with this bill's sponsor to draft the amendments to the statute reflected in HB 30.

Specifically, HB 30 makes the following technical changes:

- Clarifies that an inspection of an on-site sewage disposal for purposes other than a property transfer do not need to be performed by a holder of a property transfer inspection license;
- Clarifies that the application fee collected by MDE for a wastewater property transfer inspection license or for individuals providing on-site wastewater services shall be paid into the On-Site Wastewater Professionals Fund;
- Clarifies that an administrative penalty collected by MDE for violating the requirement to hold a property transfer inspection license shall be paid into the Maryland Clean Water Fund;
- Reduces the number of on-site wastewater professionals from six to five to correctly correlate to the total number of Board members and other membership requirements, and;
- Fixes a mathematical issue regarding the geographic diversity of on-site wastewater professional members while preserving a requirement that the members must be representative of all geographic regions of the state.

Finally, it is important to note that the Department still needs three new PINs to ensure the proper staffing of the Board (this is reflected in the Department's fiscal notes for both HB 318 and HB 30). This bill makes necessary clarifications and technical changes for the implementation of the Board. Accordingly, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 30.

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